

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1076

I am appearing before the Public Safety and Security Committee today to voice opposition to SB 1076 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE. Like others appearing before you today, I support the 2nd Amendment. I believe this act has little to do with reducing gun violence. Instead, it has everything to do with reducing my fundamental freedom to acquire and freely possess a garden variety of firearms, ammunitions, and magazines.

It has been under-reported, but it is a certain fact that maximally effective Gun Control is in effect now – at this very moment. Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook, US citizens have responded fearfully to the political rhetoric that has surrounded this horrifying event. The voices of our leaders – Governor Malloy and Senators Murphy and Blumenthal have joined the chorus of those who claim an illusionary political high-ground built upon the deaths of our beautiful children. In response, gun purchases have soared and ammunition has been ripped from the shelves. Internet inventory is down to zero. People are hoarding certain firearms and ammunition and price gouging is rampant.

So, in a bizarre irony, all the threatening rhetoric has resulted in a shortage of AR style rifles and any and all ammunition. I cannot even buy rounds for my .22 caliber target pistol. Our friends and neighbors favoring gun control should rejoice in the circumstance.

Yet, in the midst of this artificial gun control, New Haven violent crime rates are surging. Armed robberies in January, 2013 doubled with 52 reported within the first 3 weeks. The city of Chicago has seen an incredible and deadly surge in murders in the past two weeks. Just yesterday, in the Waterbury Republican American, I read about a Chicago infant who was shot six times while having her diapers changed by her gangster father in the front seat of his car.

On a day in February Senator Chris Murphy was “frightened” by our state police shooting semi-automatic weapons at paper funny face targets. He then speculated preposterously on television that Adam Lanza might not have done what he did had he had access only to his mother’s semi-automatic pistol. That same day it was reported in the paper that an armed confrontation in a public school in Atlanta was safely defused by an armed officer stationed at the school.

So, if de-facto gun control as evidenced by shortage of AR-15 style fire-arms and rifle and hand-gun ammunition of all calibers does not reduce gun violence, I cannot accept that these proposed regulations will accomplish anything meaningful to save lives.

Some might reasonably feel that citing emotional anecdotes and page four news stories will not establish a reality trend. But then there’s Sandy Hook, and this State feels duty bound to do something...anything...even if it is wrong.

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Connecticut Public Safety and Security Committee
Gun Legislative Hearing

We all know that you cannot legislate against evil and insanity. But some members of this committee will nevertheless choose to make guns a proxy and ignore your citizens' fundamental rights under the US Constitution.

I urge you not to support this bill.

This dangerous bill contains a litany of rules and regulations that will effectively place many law abiding firearms owners at risk of accidentally becoming felons and it places our property at risk of confiscation by the State.

The dangerous bill accomplishes nothing meaningful toward protecting our citizenry. In fact, I believe the proposed regulations will favor criminals whom we already know will be unwilling to self-incriminate in abiding by the onerous firearm registration and permit requirements.

The banning of common semi-automatic rifles and pistols based on the commercial AR platform and their standard magazine is, I believe, an illegal infringement of my 2nd Amendment constitutional guarantees. This is the benchmark firearm standard – the commercial analog to the familiar weapon on which our military is trained and experienced. There are millions of these weapons in the hands of good, law-abiding Americans today. You cannot take the right for our returning veterans to acquire these commonly available firearms.

Firearms registration is an unacceptable invasion of privacy, a frightening precedent that has the potential of leading to future depredation of our freedoms.

I would like to thank the committee for your valued and common-sense support of my gun ownership and personal privacy rights. I will be watching this vote carefully. I trust you to do the right thing for the people of Connecticut by defeating this dangerous legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

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